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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/106,519	06/29/1998	KEITH MCCLOGHRIE	CIS-044	6843

7590 12/01/2003

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EXAMINER

PHUNKULH, BOB A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2661

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2003

31

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/106,519

Applicant(s)

MCCLOGHRIE ET AL.

Examiner

Bob A. Phunkulh

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 5-7, 9-44 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6, 22-24, 27 and 28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 10, 25, 26, 29, 31, 43 and 44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 11-21, 30 and 32-42 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

This communication is in response to applicant's 09/09/2003 amendment/responses in the application of **McCLOGHRIE et al.** for "**SAMPLING PACKETS FOR NETWORK MONITORING**" filed 06/29/1998. The amendments/response to the claims have been entered. No claims have been canceled. No claims have been added. Claims 3, 5-7, 9-44 are now pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 7, 10, 25-26, 29, 31, and 43-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phaal (US 5,315,580) in view of Lo (US 5,559,801).

Regarding claims 7, 10, 25-26, 29, 31, and 43-44, Phaal discloses a network monitoring device includes a receive means for detecting and receiving message packets carried on a network (an input port for receiving network packets), a sampling means for selecting a number of packets detected by the receive means (a sampling element for selecting a fraction of those packets for review), and a processing means for collecting and processing data from packets selected by the sampling means; wherein the sampling means select packets in a deterministic manner either on the

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basis of selecting every nth packet or on the basis of selecting the first packet detected after a fixed interval (see col. 1 lines 62 to col. 2 line 39).

In addition, Phaal discloses the size (threshold) of the receive and transmit FIFO buffers 25 and 26 can be quite small, for example sufficient to hold only two or three entries (see col. 5 line 66 to col. 6 line 12); and the collected packets sent out by the monitoring devices 12 over the network are all received by the measurement station 13 which stores these packets and carries out subsequent processing and analysis (see col. 6 line 27 to col. 7 line 37).

Furthermore, Phaal discloses the random selection of received packet header is based on the predetermined random counts stored in ROM 22 (see col. 4 lines 57-59). Also, the random numbers may be generated by the processor 21 (see col. 6 lines 30-43).

Phaal fails to disclose a feedback element for adaptively altering a fraction of packets for review that is response to a length of a queue of selected packets.

Lo, on the other hand, discloses a method for sampling packets by a programmable packet sampling apparatus in a network management system. The method includes receiving packets from a plurality of input ports, and selecting packets for sampling, by a packet sampler 75, sampling data packets based on a predetermined

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values or sampling values; and outputting a disrupt data packet. The sampler 75 includes a queue 110 and queue control 112 for controlling the queue 110 (see figures 5 and 6; and col. 10 lines 19-33; col. 11 line 20-33).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to replace the receive and transmit FIFO buffers 25 and 26 of Phaal with the queue 110 and queue control 112 of Lo in order to provides the queue system with ability to monitor the length of queue when storing the sampled packets –thus avoid overloading the traffic sampling element by stopping or decreasing the sampling rate.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-6, 22-24, and 27-28 are allowed.

Claims 9, 11-21, 30, 32-42 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

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(703) 872-9314, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

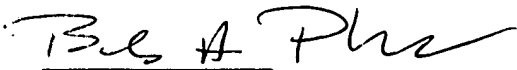
Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2021

Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Bob A. Phunkulh** whose telephone number is **(703) 308-8251**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor **Douglas W. Olms**, can be reach on **(703) 305-4703**. The fax phone number for this group is **(703) 872-9314**.

Bob A. Phunkulh



TC 2600
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November 25, 2003